



# Space Interferometer Mission (SIM)

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Presented by

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Project Manager

# SIM Key Objectives

## Science \*

\* Technology maturation  
over the next few years  
will determine the ultimate  
achievable  
performance

**Indirect Planet Detection  
Down to a Few Earth Masses  
(goal: 1  $\mu$ as;  
min: 3  $\mu$ as)**

**Ultra Precision  
Global Astrometry  
(goal: 4  $\mu$ as;  
min: better than 30 $\mu$ as)**

## Technology

**Demonstrate Technology  
of Synthesis Imaging**

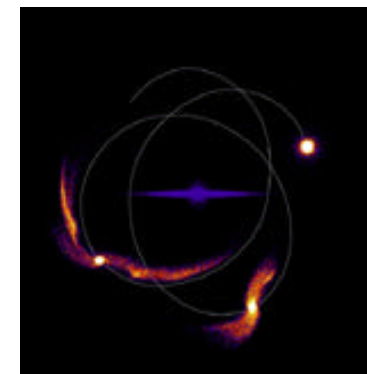
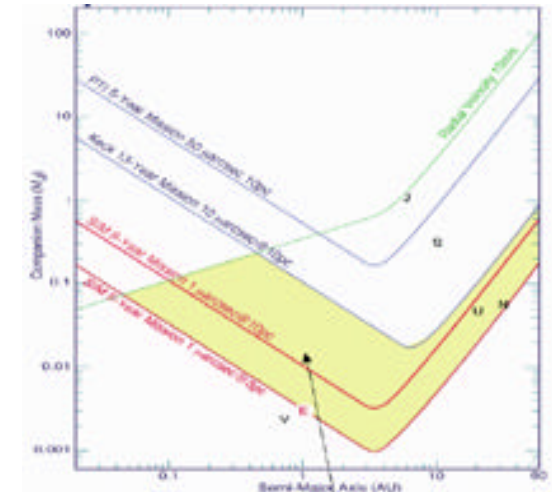
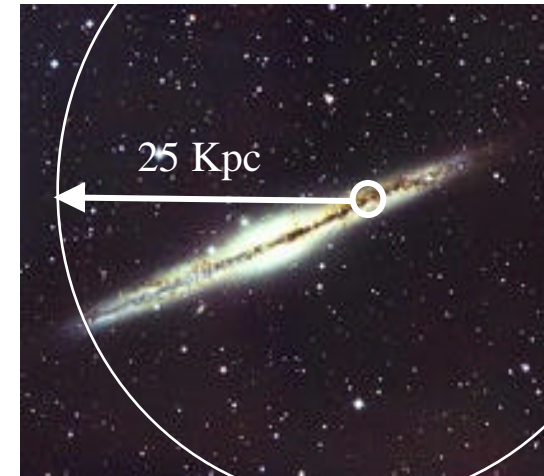
**Demonstrate Technology  
of Starlight Nulling**

**Usher in the Era of  
Long Baseline, Short Wavelength  
Interferometry for  
Astrophysical Observation**

# Astrophysics with SIM

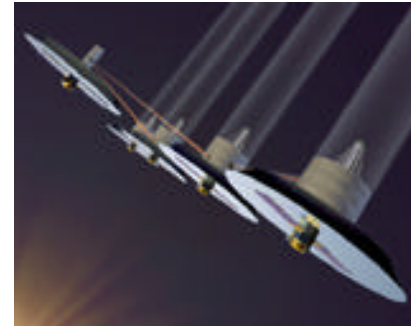
## New Discoveries ... and Answers to Age-Old Questions

- Calibration of the Cosmic Distance Scale
  - Cepheids and nearby spiral galaxies
- Dynamics of the galaxy
- Fundamental stellar astrophysics
- Star/Planetary system formation
  - The quest for terrestrial planets
- Masses of black hole and neutron star binaries
- Probe nature of dark matter via gravitational lensing
- Dynamics of the local group of galaxies, dark matter in nearby galaxies, and between galaxies
- Frame tie between SIM (optical) and ICRF (radio)

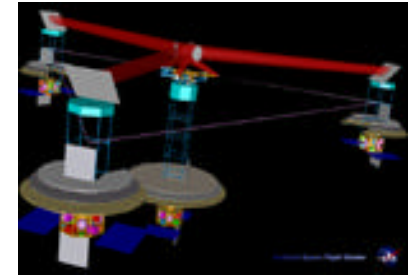


# SIM as a Technology Precursor to Future Missions

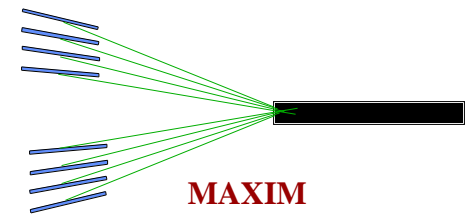
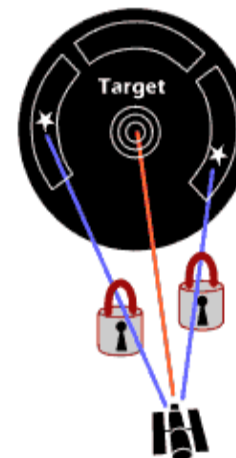
- SIM is an integral part of the flow of technology within the Origins Program and the Space Science Enterprise
  - TPF and future Planet Imaging Interferometers
  - Long baseline Interferometers from submm to X-rays
- SIM is a unique precursor for TPF in the following areas:
  - Angle and path length feed forward in space
  - Space demonstration of nulling to  $10^{-4}$  (vis)
  - Imaging with a nulling interferometer (rotate a baseline while maintaining a deep null, moving delay line)



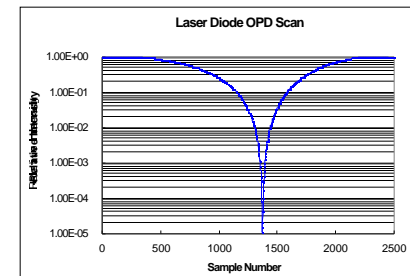
TPF



SPECS



MAXIM



Optical Nulling

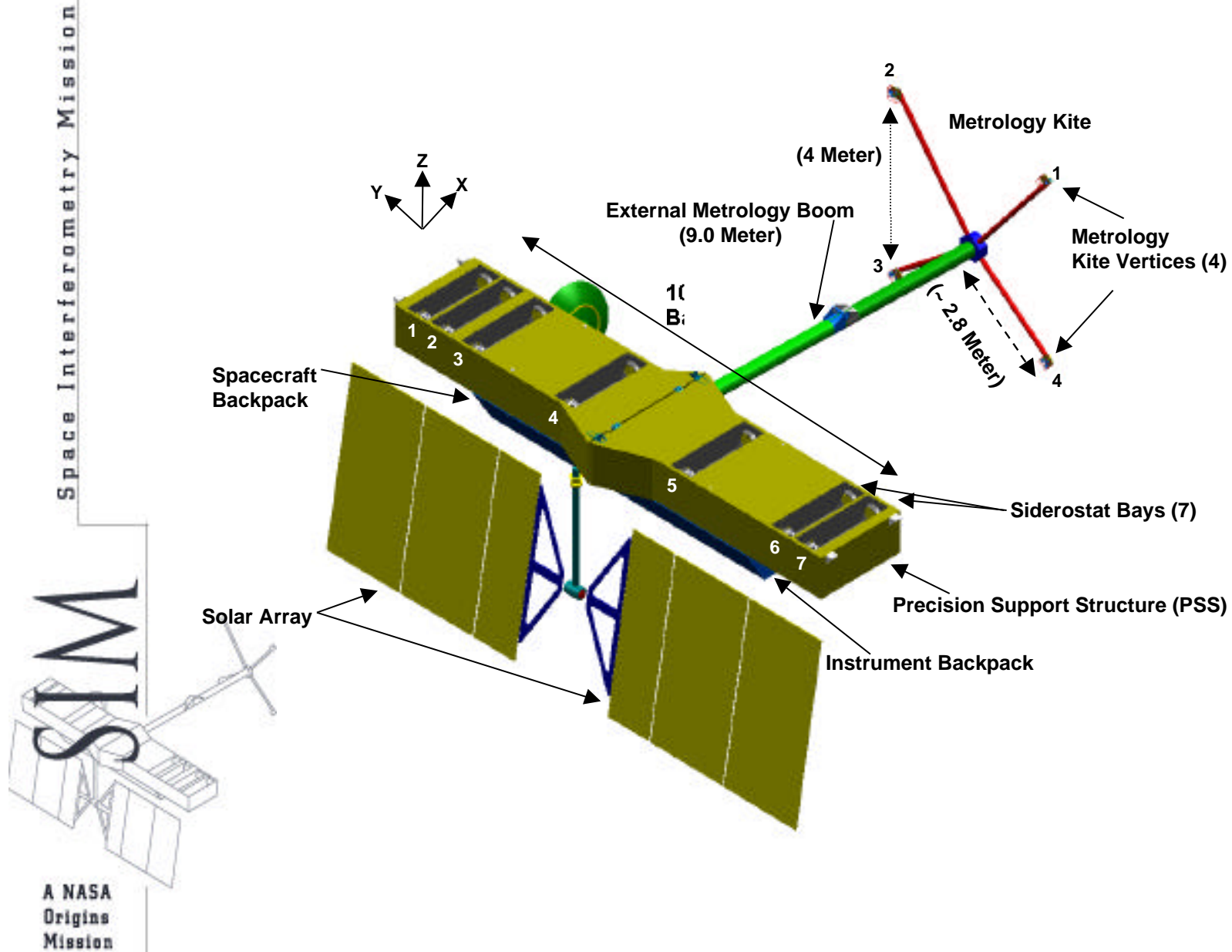


# Space Interferometry Mission

- 3 collinear Michelson Stellar Interferometers
- 10 meter baseline
- Visible wavelength
- EELV (Atlas V 421) launch vehicle
- Earth-trailing solar orbit
- 5-year mission life
- SIM is a JPL, Caltech, Lockheed Martin, and TRW partnership



# SIM Flight System Configuration



# The SIM Partnership: Four Partners

## One Team



Metrology Subsystem  
Starlight Subsystem  
Interferometer I&T  
Interferometer Operations



Interferometry Science Center  
Science Data Analysis and  
Archiving  
Science Operations  
Science Planning  
Science Community Interface  
Outreach



Spacecraft  
Precision Structure  
Assembly, Test, & Launch  
Operations  
S/C Operations



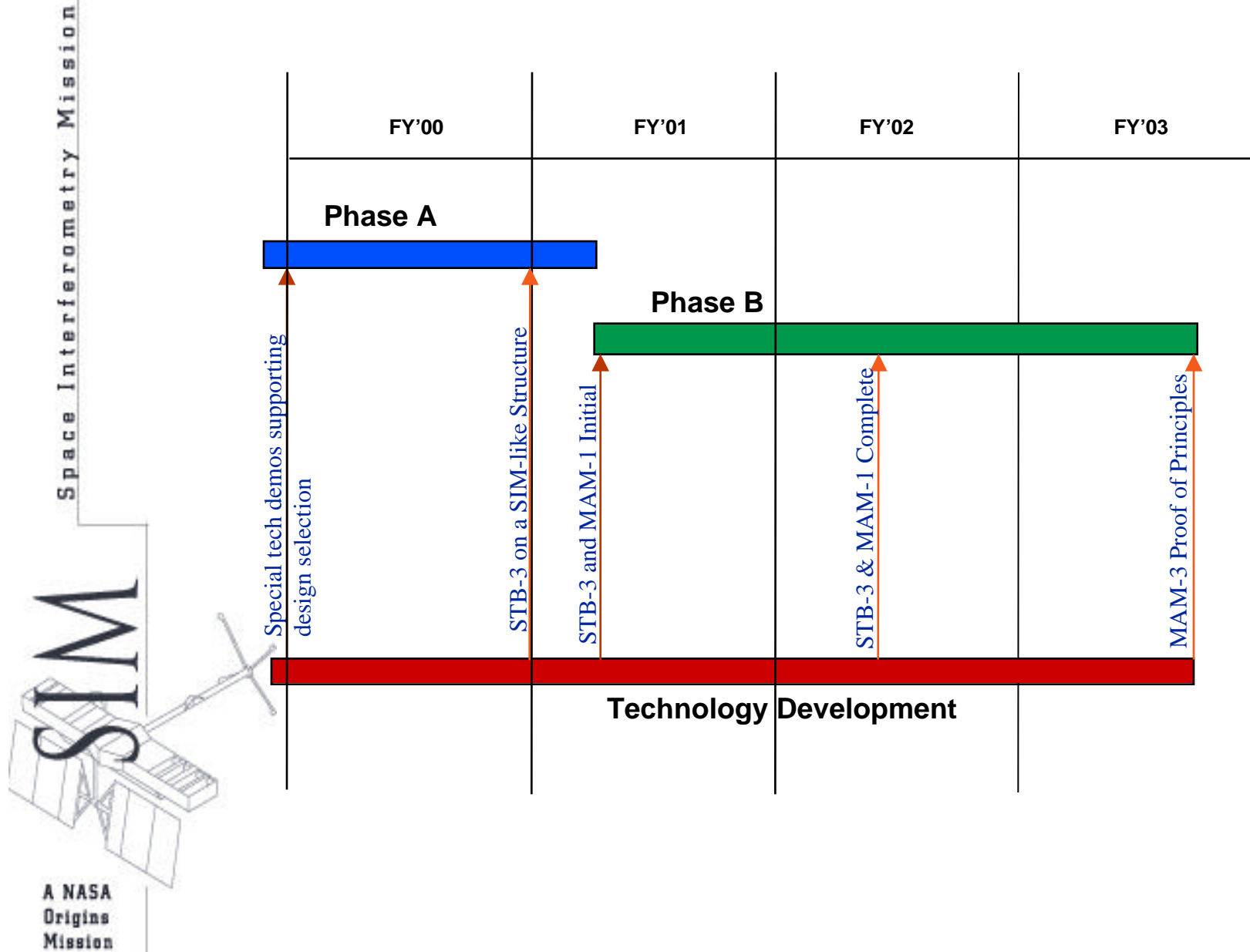
Project Management  
System Engineering  
Integrated Modeling  
Real Time Control  
Mission Systems  
Mission Assurance  
Risk Management



A NASA  
Origins  
Mission

# Near-Term Technology Schedule

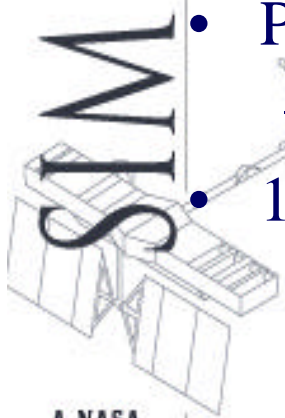
## Formulation Phase





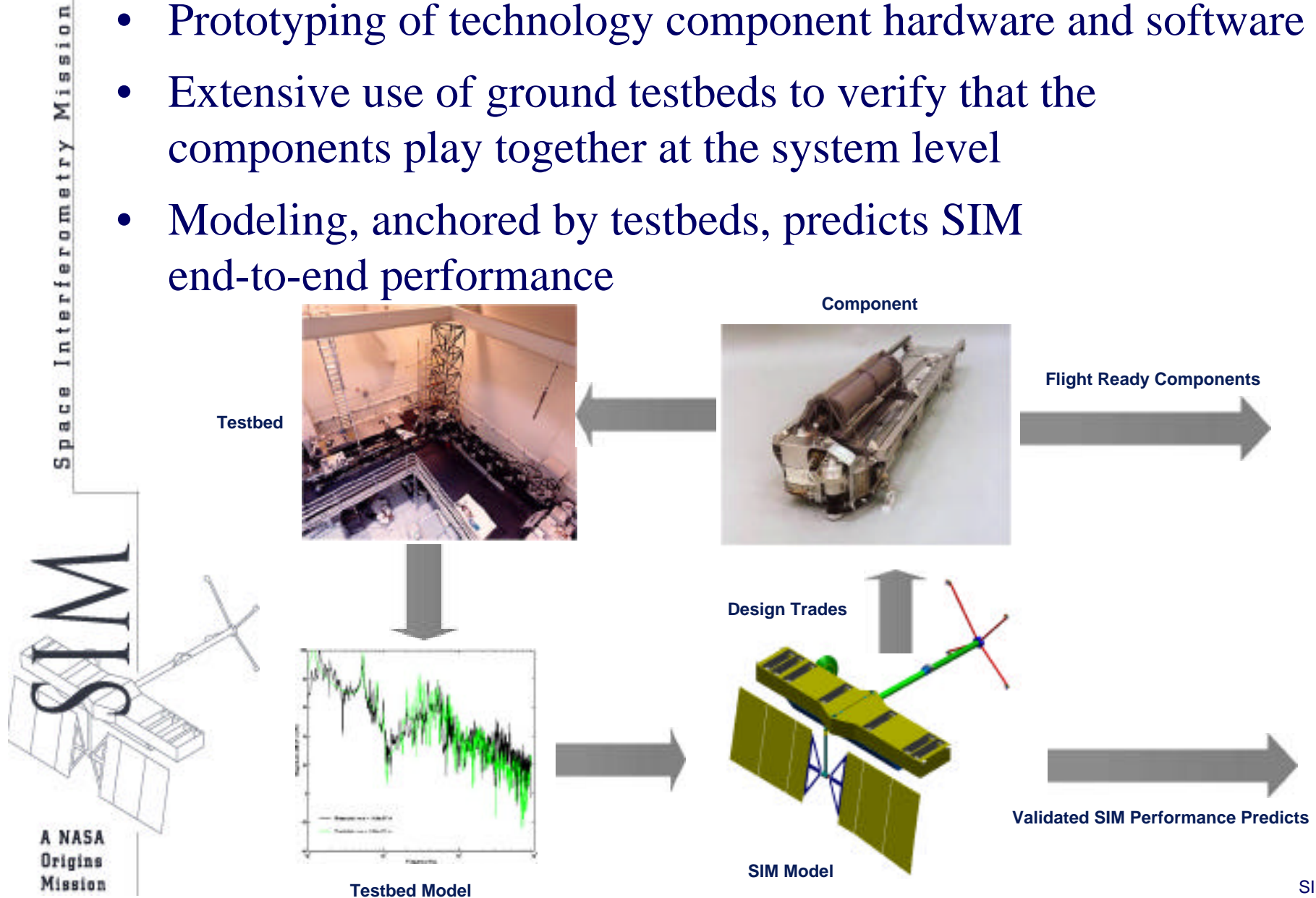
# Required Technologies

- Knowledge of positions of optical elements to 25 Picometers  
(*100 pm = diameter of a hydrogen atom*)
  - Picometer laser metrology
  - Picometer starlight fringe position measurement
- Nanometer control of optical path difference  
(*75,000 nm = thickness of a human hair*)
  - Nano-g vibration isolation
  - Nanometer/nanoradian active optics
  - Micron stability of structures
- Picometer thermal deformation of optics
  - Millikelvin thermal control of optics
- 10,000:1 starlight nulling beam combination in the visible



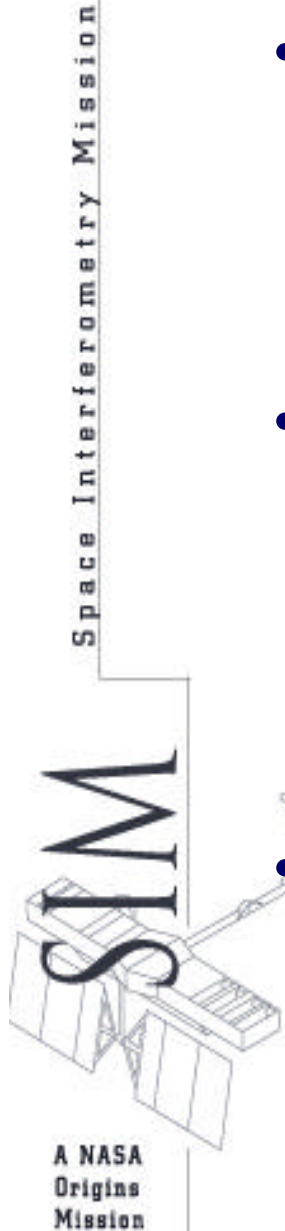
# Approach to Technology Development

- Prototyping of technology component hardware and software
- Extensive use of ground testbeds to verify that the components play together at the system level
- Modeling, anchored by testbeds, predicts SIM end-to-end performance



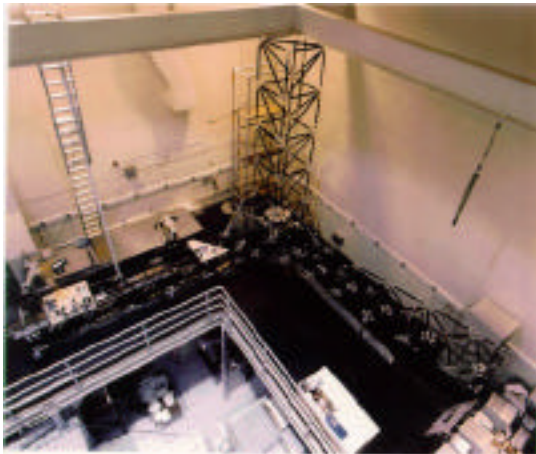
# SIM System Level Testbeds

- SIM is developing four system level testbeds to demonstrate technology performance at the system level
- Two near full-scale testbeds that demonstrate nanometer control in air
  - System TestBed - 1 (STB-1) is a one-baseline testbed
  - System TestBed - 3 (STB-3) is a three-baseline testbed
- Two sub-scale testbeds that demonstrate picometer knowledge in vacuum
  - MAM-1 is a 1/5 scale one-baseline testbed
  - MAM-3 is a 1/3 scale three baseline testbed

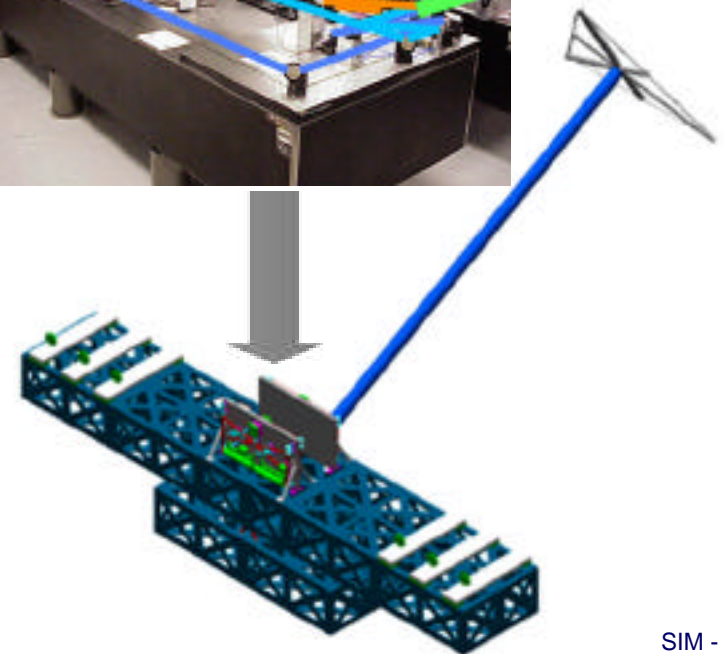
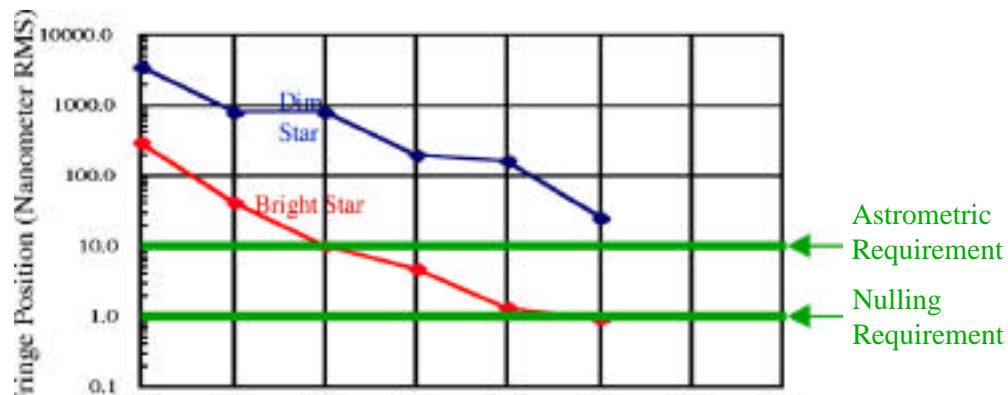
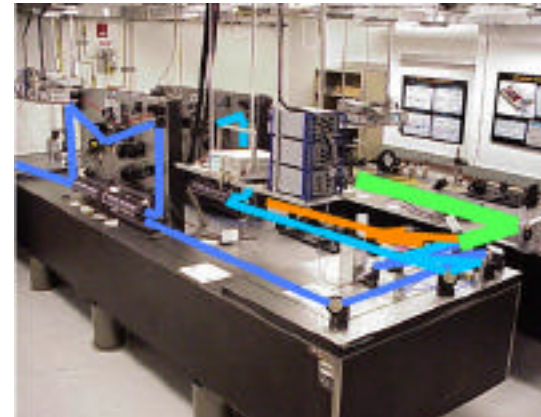


# SIM System Testbeds (STB-1 & STB-3)

- STB-1 has been in operation since 1994
- Demonstrating nanometer stabilization for a single interferometer on a flexible structure
- Validating SIM dynamic modeling accuracy

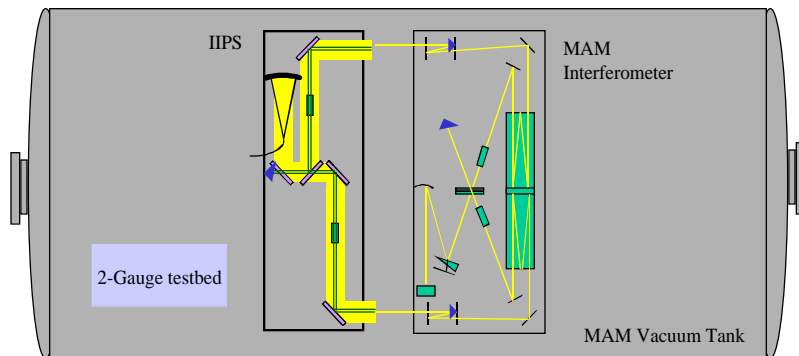


- STB-3 is presently operating on optical tables
- Will demonstrate pathlength feed forward, dim star control capability
- Will transition to a flexible structure in December 2000



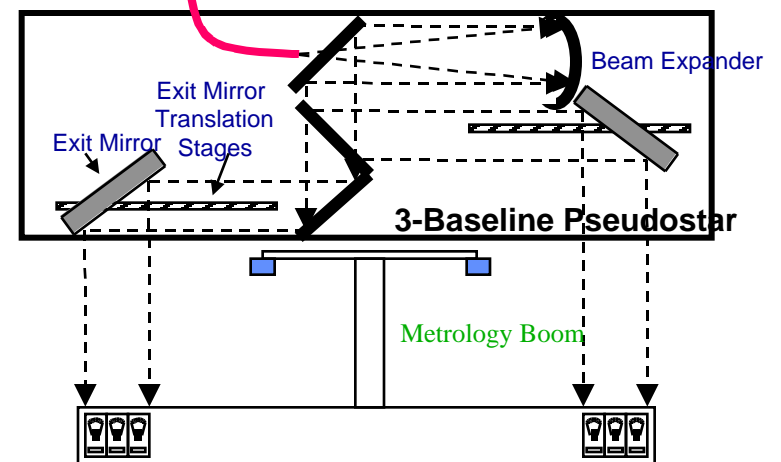
# Micro-Arcsecond Metrology Testbeds (MAM-1 & MAM-3)

- MAM-1 is a 1/5 scale, one interferometer testbed
- Will demonstrate that metrology and starlight sensing can be integrated and provide consistent outputs at the picometer level
- Development of the interferometer and pseudo-star are in process
- Functional testing will take place in 2001



**MAM-1 schematic**

- MAM-3 is a 1/3 scale, three interferometer testbed
- Will demonstrate the transfer of guide star position knowledge with the precision required to measure science star positions in inertial space
- Requirements definition and conceptual design in process
- Will complete in time to influence the flight design



**MAM-3 schematic**



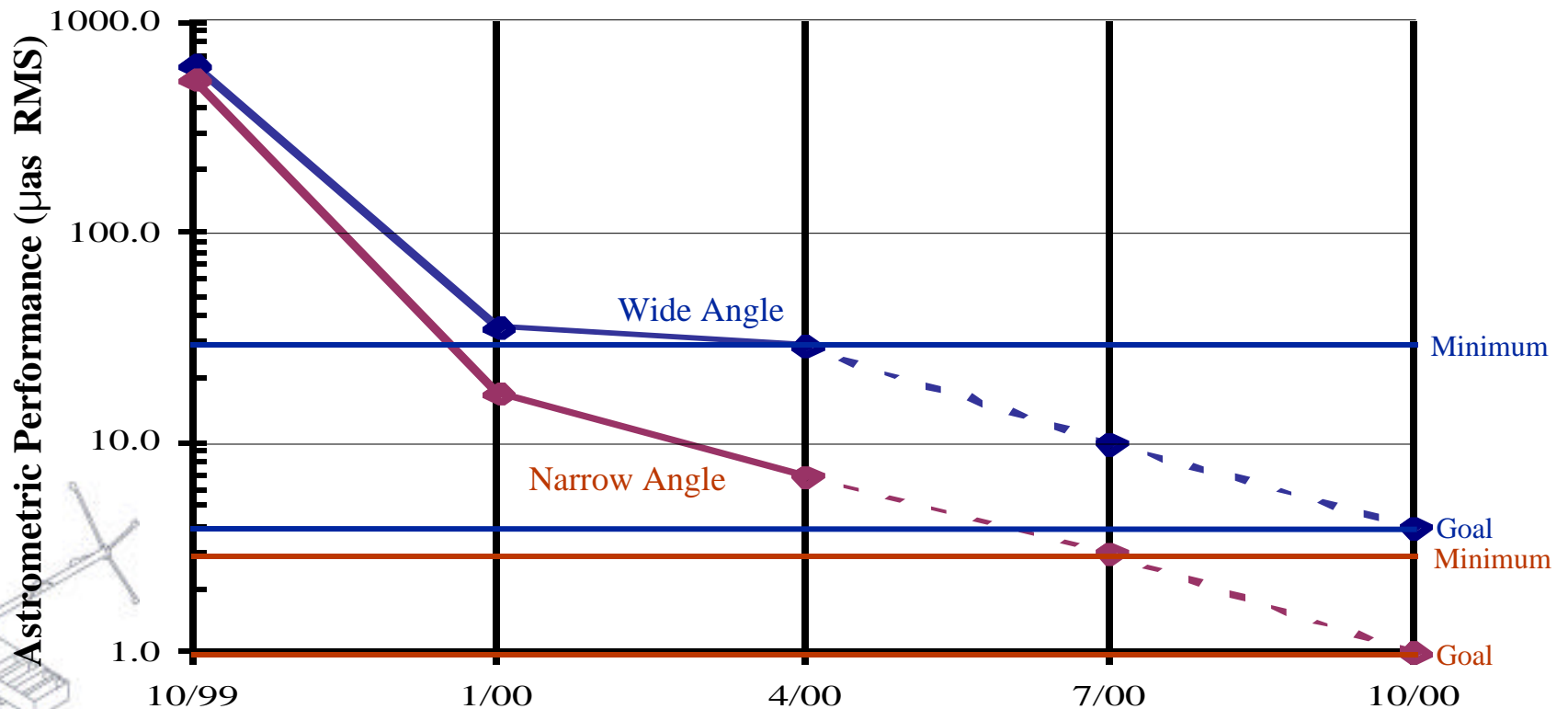
# SIM Performance Metric

## *What If We Froze the Technology Now*

	Parameters	Parameter Performance Today	Parameter Performance Needed by NAR	SIM Wide angle (WA) / Narrow Angle (NA)  <i>What if all other parameters improve to the NAR level but no more improvement on this one</i>
1	Beam launcher thermal sensitivity (bulk, gradient)	100 pm/mk, 2500 pm/mk	2 pm/mk, 50 pm/mk	28 $\mu$ as/ 4.8 $\mu$ as ●
2	Cyclic averaging residual error per gauge	100 pm	5 pm	4 $\mu$ as/ 3 $\mu$ as ●
3	Pointing deter error per gauge	750 mas	75 mas	5 $\mu$ as/ 2.8 $\mu$ as
4	Corner cube surface quality	lamda/100	lamda/500	5 $\mu$ as/ 1.2 $\mu$ as
5	Wide angle error due to beam diffraction	1000 pm	100 pm	8.5 $\mu$ as (WA)
6	Narrow angle error due to beam diffraction	67 pm	2.7 pm	1.7 $\mu$ as (NA)
7	Wide angle error due to polarization effects on corner cubes	375 pm	15 pm	10 $\mu$ as (WA)
8	Narrow angle error due to polarization effects on corner cubes	25 pm	1 pm	2 $\mu$ as (NA)
9	1-D absolute metrology accuracy	30 $\mu$ m	3 $\mu$ m	4 $\mu$ as/1.2 $\mu$ as
10	Wide angle PSS end-to-end thermal deformation	100 $\mu$ m	10 $\mu$ m	4.4 $\mu$ as (WA)
11	Narrow angle PSS end-to-end thermal deformation	10 $\mu$ m	1 $\mu$ m	0.9 $\mu$ as (NA)
12	Systematic fringe measurement error	250 pm	30 pm	5.1 $\mu$ as/3 $\mu$ as ●
	<b>Wide Angle Performance (General Astrophysics)</b> 4 $\mu$ as (goal); 30 $\mu$ as (min)	<b>29 <math>\mu</math>as</b>	<b>3.9 <math>\mu</math>as</b>	
	<b>Narrow Angle Performance (Planet Detection)</b> 1 $\mu$ as (goal); 3 $\mu$ as (min)	<b>7 <math>\mu</math>as</b>	<b>0.8 <math>\mu</math>as</b>	

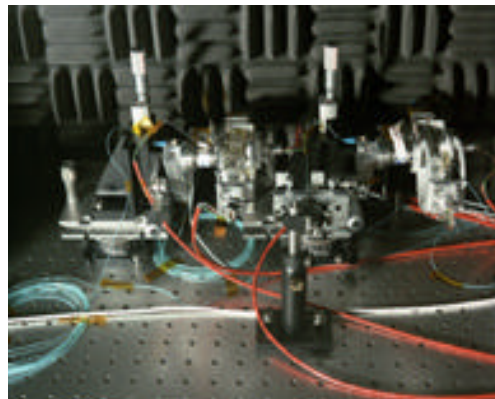
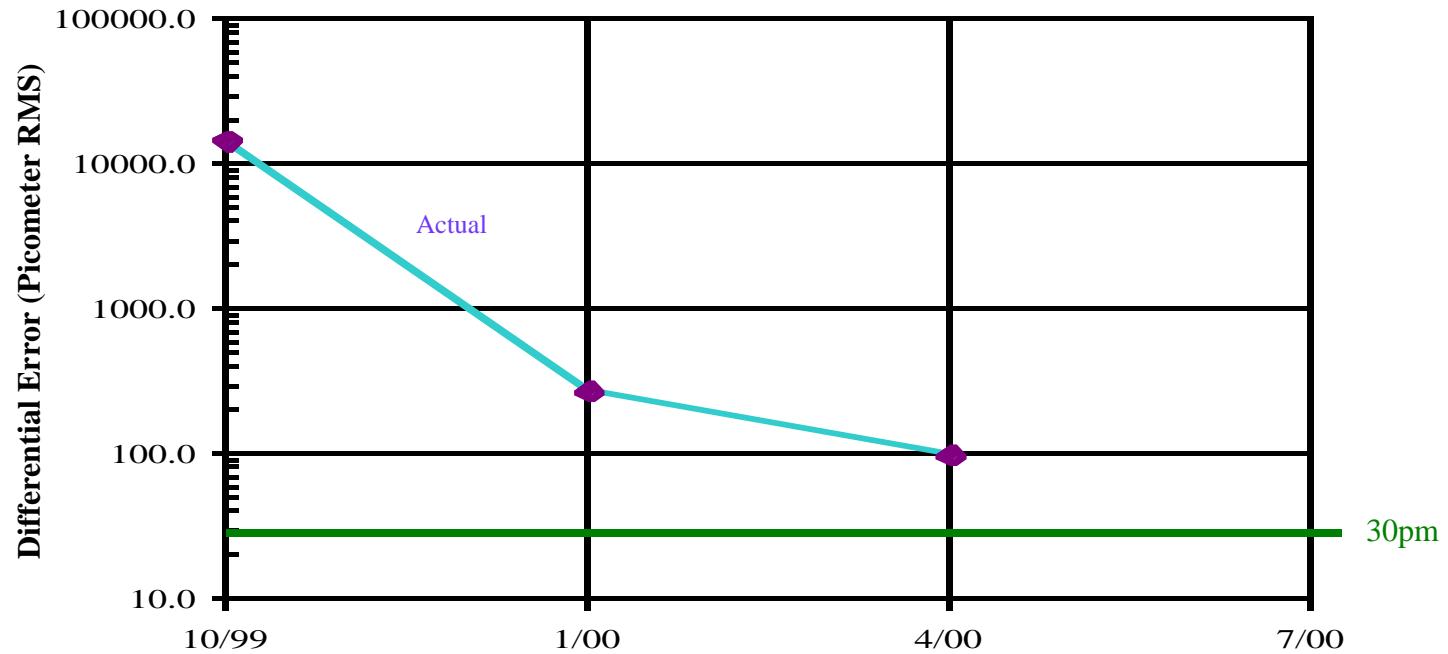
# SIM Performance Metric

- Calculated Wide Angle based on Component Performance
- Calculated Narrow Angle based on Component Performance

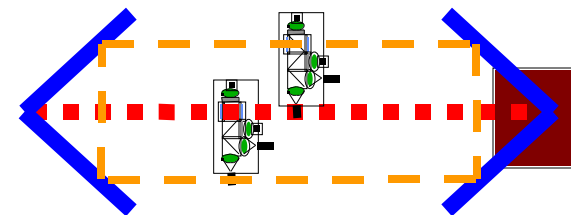


# Metrology Gauge Experiment – Progress

- Measure agreement between two back-to-back gauges



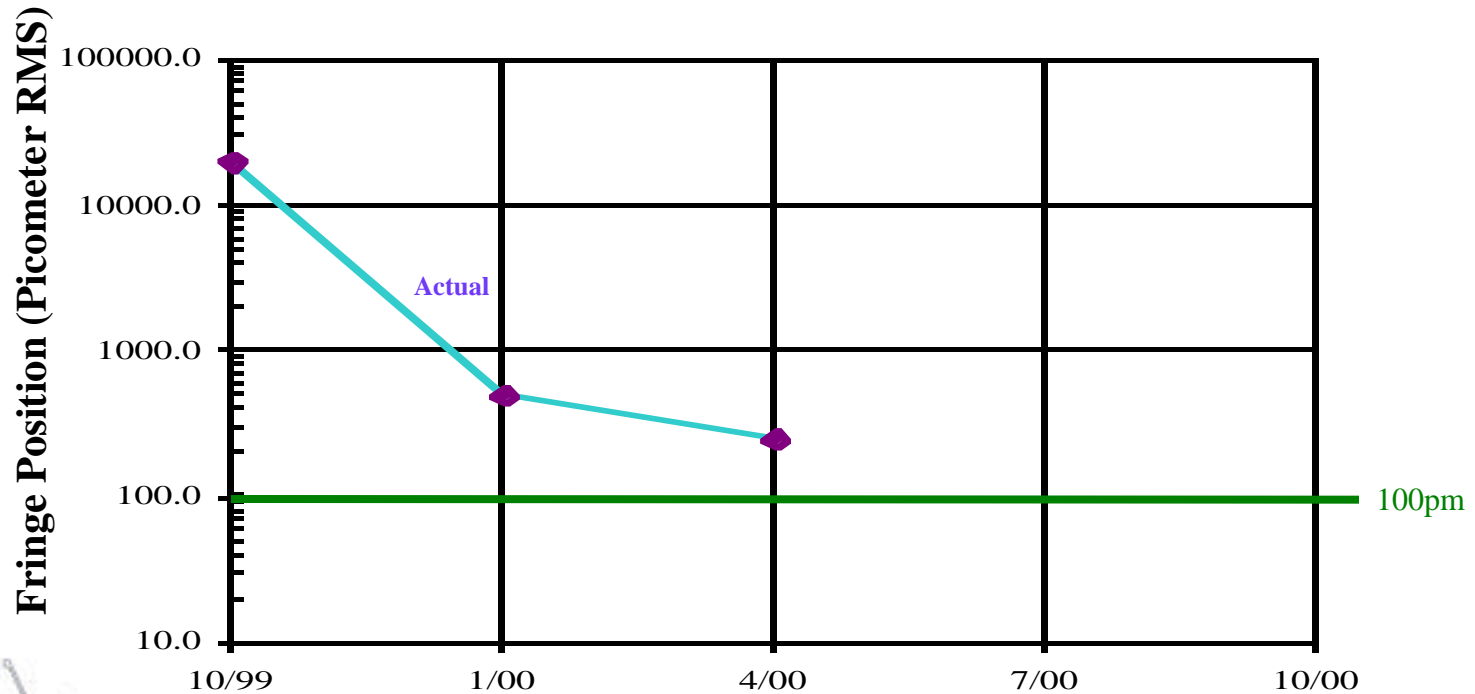
**Heterodyne Metrology Gauge**



**“2-Gauge”  
Experiment**

# White Light Experiment – Progress

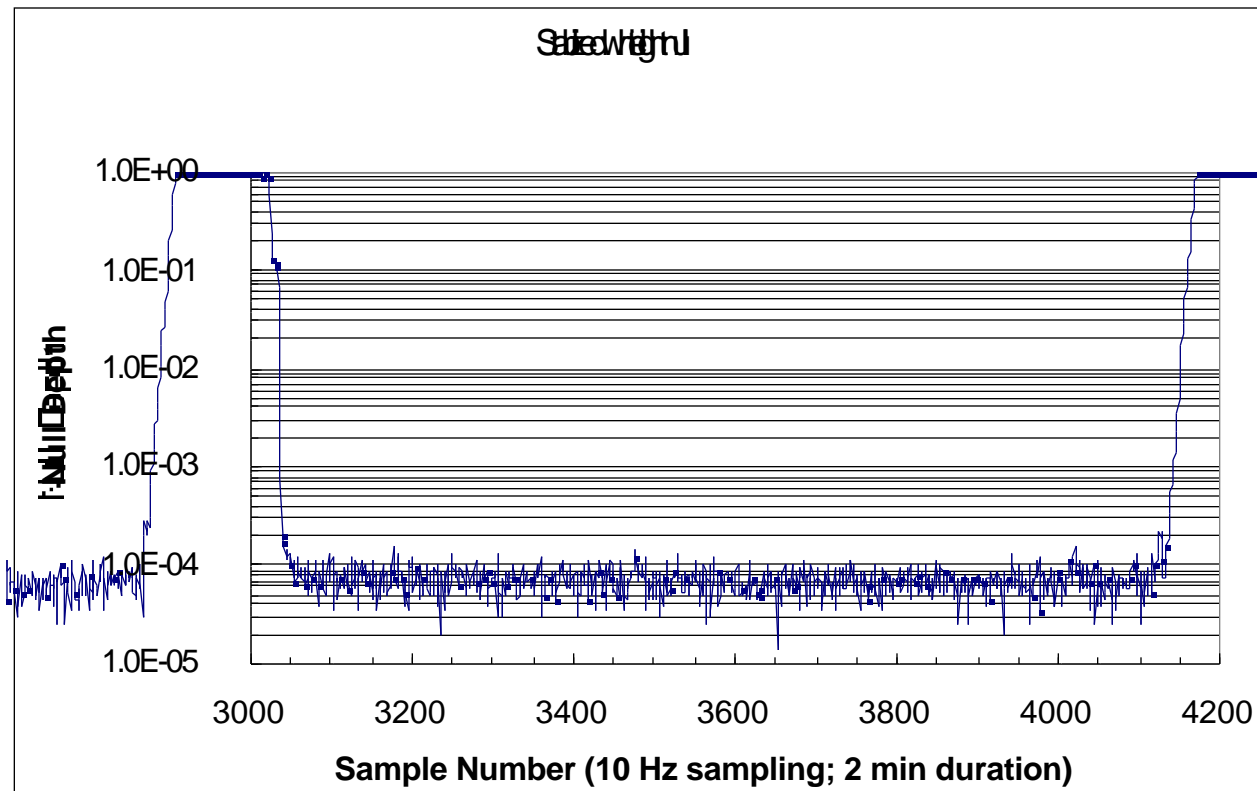
- “Stellar” fringe measurement accuracy – MAM interferometer test article



MAM Testbed

# Stabilized White Light Null

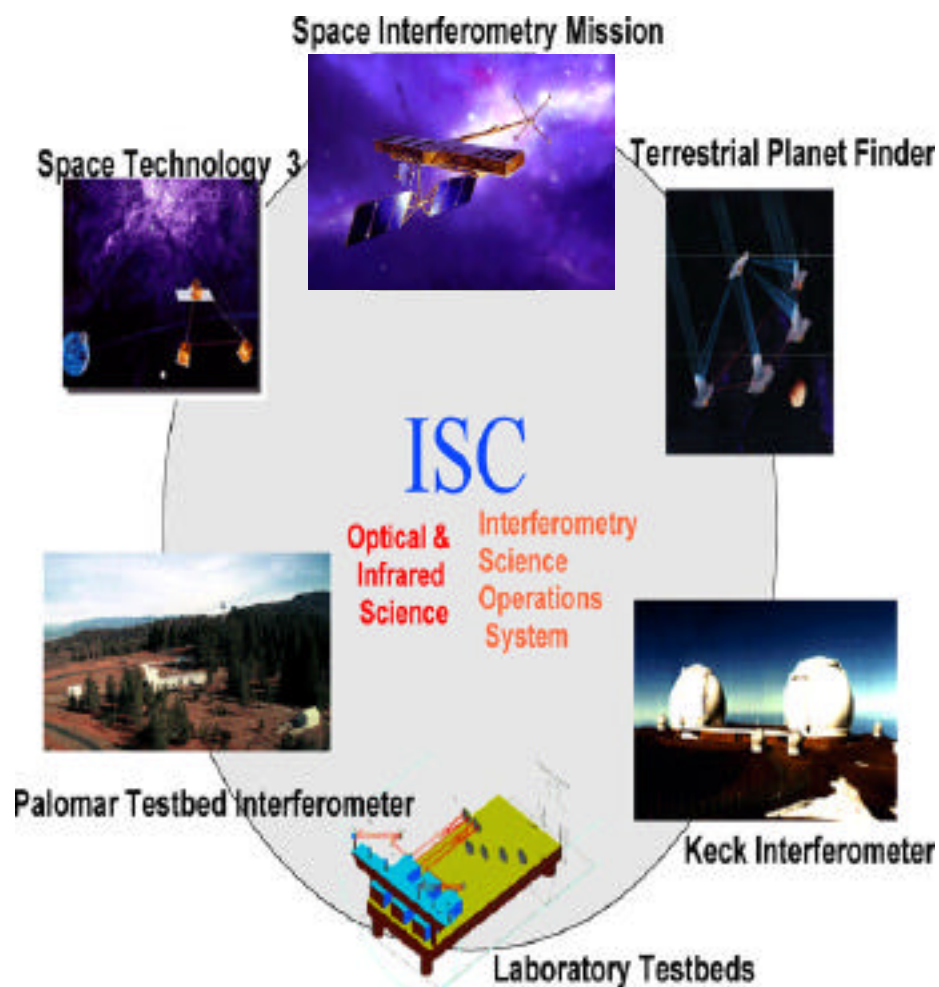
- Two years ago this was considered the most difficult technology for SIM
- This year we have nearly achieved the requirement
  - White light null
  - Stable at less than  $10^{-4}$
  - 18% bandwidth
  - Single polarization





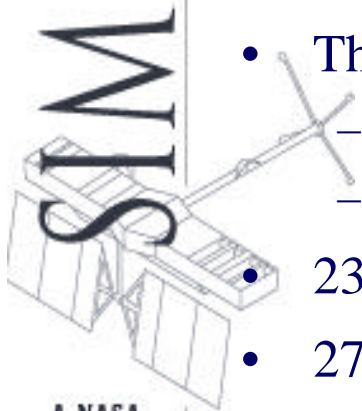
# Interferometry Science Center

- Dr. Anneila Sargent appointed ISC Director
- JPL/Caltech collaboration
- Multi-mission capability for interferometry
- Built upon Infrared Processing and Analysis Center heritage



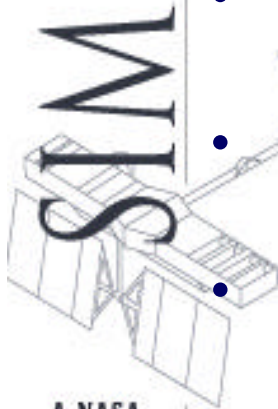
# Science AO

- The SIM Science AO was released on February 25, 2000
- Proposals due May 26, 2000
- Announcement of selections August 2000
- Selections will be for the following:
  - As many as 8 Key Project Science Investigations
  - 1 Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) Scientist
  - Minimum of 2 Data Scientists
  - Minimum of 2 Instrument Scientists
  - Maximum of 2 Interdisciplinary Scientists
  - 1 Imaging and Nulling Scientist
- This AO will distribute about 60% of the total observing time for SIM
  - Up to 10% for each Key Project Science Investigation
  - Up to 1% for each of the Discipline Scientists
- 23 Notice of Intents were received for Key Project Science
- 27 Notice of Intents were received for individual scientists



# Last Year's Accomplishments – Technology

- Significant progress in nanometer technologies
  - Continued improvements on STB-1
  - Obtained STB-3 first fringes
- Nulling technology demonstrated at required level
  - Achieved  $10^{-4}$  stable white light null
- Significant progress has been made in picometer technology, and considerable momentum established
  - Achieved 100pm precision with met gauge (Hydrogen atom diameter)
  - Demonstrated 250pm white light fringe measurement capability
- Successful at modeling nanometer performance of a full scale interferometer on a flexible structure
- Demonstrated ability to measure and predict millikelvin temperature response of optics
- Demonstrated ability to measure optical surface deformation at the 30pm level



# Last Year's Accomplishments – Flight System

- Completed instrument design selection
  - SIM Classic is our reference design
- Developed a design description document for the reference design
- Development of level 1, 2, 3, and 4 requirements are on schedule for our September System Requirements Review (SRR)
- Began the SIM Independent Assessment
  - Held first Technical Interchange Meeting April 4 & 5



# Coming Next Year

- Technology

- Demonstrate dim star fringe tracking on STB-3 on a flexible structure
- Obtain first fringes on MAM-1
- Demonstrate SIM performance levels for the Met Gauge ( $\leq 30\text{pm}$ ) and the white light fringe ( $\leq 100\text{pm}$ ) measurement capability
- Obtain initial picometer deformation measurements of optics under millikelvin temperature changes

- Flight System

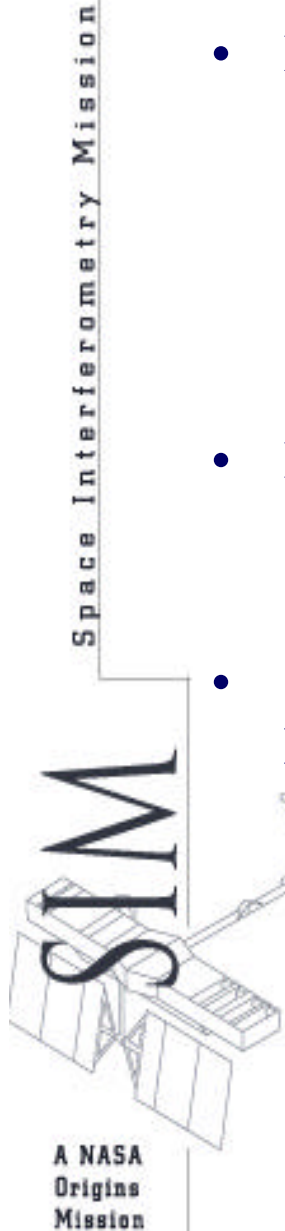
- Complete the System Requirements Review (October 2000)
- Complete the Independent Assessment (October 2000)
- Ready to transition into Phase B (December 2000)



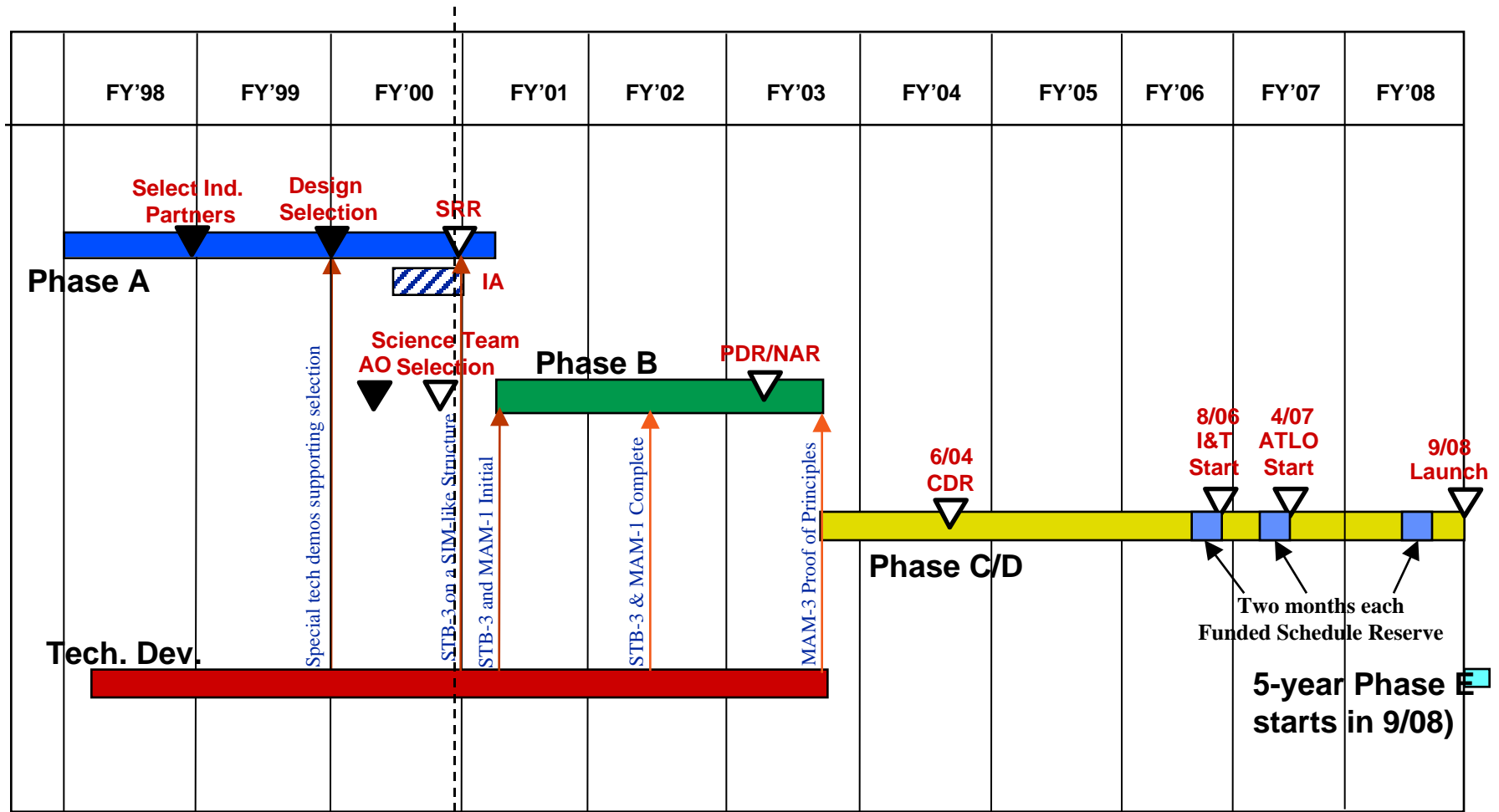


# SIM Schedule Update

- Previous Formulation Phase schedule margin was inadequate
  - Completion of MAM-1 and STB-3 by PDR/NAR was very success oriented
  - Completion of MAM-3 proof of concept demonstration in time to influence the flight design was likely not achievable
  - Completion of critical brassboards by Implementation Phase start was success-oriented
- Previous 4 1/4 year Implementation Phase schedule inadequate
  - Delivery of metrology components on schedule was success oriented
  - Interferometer I&T and ATLO schedule was success oriented
- Current Schedule significantly reduces Project risk by extending the Formulation Phase 1 1/4 years and Implementation Phase 1 year
  - Provides adequate schedule for completion of MAM-1 and STB-3
  - Provides adequate schedule to complete MAM-3 proof of concept prior to Implementation Phase start
  - Provides adequate schedule for critical brassboard development
  - Provides the needed additional 6 months to the metrology component schedule
  - Provides the needed additional 6 months to the I&T/ATLO schedule



# SIM Project Schedule



Changes since last year:

- Phase B extended 1 1/4 years
- Phase C/D extended 1 year
- Launch moves out 2 1/4 years

# Program Resiliency

- Realizability of a complex mission demands program resiliency as measured by its various programmatic and technical margins
- For SIM, these include
  - Mass margin – 37%
    - EELV (Atlas V 421) selected as the Launch Vehicle
  - Power margin – 25%
  - Budget reserve – 30% (Phase C/D)
  - Schedule reserve – 6 months (Phase C/D)
  - Science – Science floor has been defined
  - Launch opportunities – Not constrained



# Outreach Highlights – Michelson Fellowship Program

A program to support the scientific community in building expertise in optical and IR interferometry



Interdisciplinary team of undergraduate students designing beamcombiner for Keck Interferometer

## Five integrated components

- Post-doctoral Fellows
- Graduate Student Fellowships
- Undergraduate Research
- Interferometry Summer School
- Distinguished Lecture Series

## Status and Plans

- Five postdoctoral and seven graduate student fellowships awarded (among others at MIT, Harvard, U of A, SUNY, University of New Mexico, Georgia State, Caltech)
- Sponsored a Harvey Mudd Undergraduate Clinic in collaboration with Keck Interferometer
- The first summer school in Pasadena was very successful. Second will be held August 2000 at UC Berkeley

# Takeaway Chart

- Programmatic
  - Science AO is out and the Science Team will be on board this fiscal year
  - SIM is doable for the new cost estimate
  - The current schedule significantly reduces Project risk
  - The Project will be ready for transition to Phase B this Fall
- Technology
  - Nulling technology is in hand
  - Nanometer technology is nearly in hand
  - Significant progress in picometer technology, but we still have a ways to go with picometer system level testbeds
- Flight System
  - Independent Assessment is underway
  - Development of system requirements are on track for the System Requirements Review in September 2000

For More Information on SIM, See Our Website at:

**<http://sim.jpl.nasa.gov>**

